

Advisory Committee on Trees – August 14, 2018

Call to order 7PM

July 17 minutes reviewed and approved with corrections.

Present – Charles Jackman (chair), Brian Townsend (Assistant Director Public Works/Parks and staff liaison), Ethel Dutky (recorder).

Old business

1 – Urban Forest Tree Master Plan

The work session to review the two documents (long document and short version) of the Urban Forest Tree Master Plan will be held at 7:30 PM on August 20 at the Municipal Building. ACT has gone over these documents in detail, and met several times with the Davey Resource Group team that prepared them. In general ACT is satisfied with the documents as they are. All ACT members plan to attend the work session.

New Business

1 – New disease found on American Beech

Ethel shared information and fact sheets on a new disease found on American Beech in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Ontario, Canada. The cause of this disease has not yet been determined. The disease causes a leaf stripe symptom, and eventually kills the tree. It has not yet been found in Maryland.

2 – Maintenance of large old Trees.

Brian reviewed with us the testing and other maintenance Public Works is doing on selected very large trees in Greenbelt. One large willow oak (at the intersection of Ridge Rd and Hamilton Place) had a huge branch suddenly break at the trunk and fall. No property or people were hurt. The tree now has a very large hole in the trunk which reveals extensive rot in the trunk. Brian showed us pictures of the fallen branch which had extensive mats of white fungal mycelium on the surface of the broken wood. Brian plans to have a professional arborist do boring in this tree to determine the extent of the trunk rot. This tree may have to be removed. The old Ash trees on Ridge Road are treated with systemic insecticide to prevent infestation by the Emerald Ash Borer. This week, large dead limbs on these two old trees that arch over Ridge Road will be removed. In general Public Works inspects large trees for decline, and has done several procedures to alleviate stress on these trees. These include fences and mulch in the root zone to protect the roots. Dead branches are removed as needed throughout the year.

Brian shared with us that some citizens have requested that Public Works “top” large woodland trees that are on city property but within striking distance from homes. Public Works does not top trees. This is a bad practice which damages the tree and encourages sprouting that is likely to break in storms. Dangerous trees on city property (streets, woodland and parks) are removed.

3 – Upcoming events which are opportunities for tree planting or a tree tour.

Events this fall include Fall Fest and Public Lands day. Brian will determine the dates of these two events. ACT hopes to do a tree tour at one of these events.

Adjourn 9PM.

Next meeting September 25, 7PM at Public Works

Submitted by Ethel Dutky